

Trade in America 46.
LETTER

To the Right Honourable

The Lords Commissioners

OF

TRADE & PLANTATIONS:

Or, A short

ESSAY

ON THE

Principal BRANCHES

OF THE

TRADE of *New-England*.

WITH THE

DIFFICULTIES they labour under;

AND

Some METHODS of *Improvement*.

L O N D O N; Printed in the Year 1713.

THE

To the Right Honourable

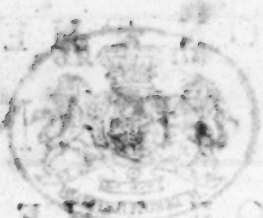
The Lord Chancellor

of the Great Seal

of Great Britain

A Short

Y A O S



READER New-England

W H T R E

DEAR SIR - I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst.

and

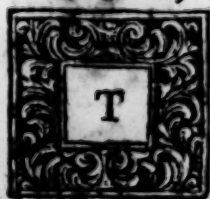
in answer to which I have the honor to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

The EPISTLE Dedicatory

To his Excellency WILLIAM CADOGAN,
Esq; His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary
to the *States-General* of the *United Provinces*, and his Plenipotentiary in the *Spanish Netherlands*, Lieutenant-General of his
Majesty's Forces, Governor of the *Isle of Wight*, Master of his Majesty's Wardrobe,
and Colonel of the Second Regiment of
Foot-Guards, &c.

S I R,



THE following Letter was wrote
with no other View, but to promote
his Majesty's Interest both here and
in America. It is an honest Relation
of Matters of Fact, which has been seen in
Manuscript by several of the Honourable House
of Commons, who (with my Country-men)
thought it might be a publick Benefit, as
containing some Things of great Importance to
the Crown, and these Nations. I have confin'd
my self to New-England, because Time and
Application have given me a full Knowledge of
it. It was not originally design'd for the Press;
but the Resolution once taken, I could not be
undetermin'd whose Feet to lay it at. I beg
therefore the Patronage you afford the Parent,
may descend on this his Issue; a Favour you
have encourag'd me to hope from your Goodness
and Humanity: As for your other Virtues, a
total Silence would look like Ignorance, or Neg-
lect,

THE EPISTLE Dedicatory.

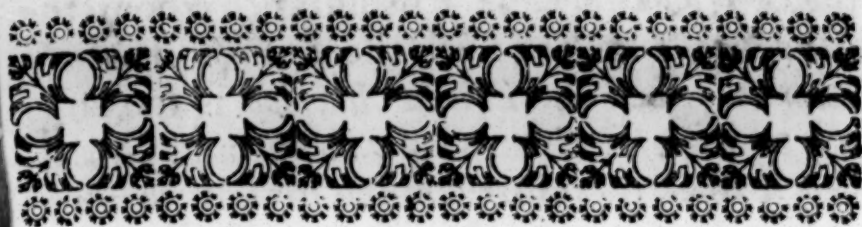
lest, and even a modest Detail, like Flattery. However, since, when Patrons and Heroes have trod the rugged Paths of Virtue, to make their Countries great and happy, the least we owe, both to them and Posterity, is a faithful Record, I will barely mention the most conspicuous. And if, in this divided Age, when most Mens Virtues stand and fall with their Parties, any one should tax me with Flattery, I will turn them to the Annals of Europe, where almost every Page is distinguish'd with Instances of your Courage or Constancy, Gratitude, Fidelity, Loyalty, Magnificence, Hospitality, Vigilance, or Activity, and an unwearied Diligence; which, according to the wisest of Kings, has set you before Princes. Indeed, a goodly Train! which distant Generations will review with Pleasure. We see Families subsisting from Age to Age, on a smaller Stock laid in by their Great Ancestors, who were first enobled by their Virtues, then by the merited Favour and Bounty of their Princes. It is therefore with impatient Expectation we wait the honourary Rewards of all your Toils, a Ray of Majesty descending from the Throne.

But I will no longer trespass on your valuable Moments, only to assure your Excellency, that no Man can more gratefully resent your Favours, or more sincerely own his Obligations, than

Your Excellency's most devoted

Humble Servant,

T. B.



To the Right Honourable

*The Lords Commissioners of
Trade and Plantations, &c.*

My LORDS,



OUR Sovereign's Dominions in *America*, are grown so very considerable, for their Extent of Land, Number of Inhabitants, capacious and profitable Trade, and Nature and Value of their Produce, that it well becomes the Deliberation and Care of the wisest Heads, and Industry and Application of the best Hands, to render them still more serviceable to our Great Monarch and his Kingdoms. To effect this good End, to
whom

whom can I apply with such Assurances of Success, as to your Lordships, whom the King has entrusted with the Survey of those Affairs. But the *British America* is too large a Field for one Man's Knowledge and Capacity ; I shall therefore confine myself to *New-England*, not only because it is equal, if not preferable to other Plantations, but, for that I am able to talk within the Bounds of my Knowledge, and that Certainty which is necessary in Schemes of this Nature. And to engage you heartily in a Design that may so well deserve your Monarch's Favour, your Country's Love, and the Blessings and Prayers of an oblig'd People, I shall offer your Lordships but one Argument, which I think will appear equally forceable in all Ages and all Countries. *We take off several hundred thousand Pounds Worth of British Manufactures yearly, and pay in such Commodities as serve your Necessities, and not one Article that increases your Luxury or unnecessary Expence.* Certainly, my Lords, this is the Trade most worthy to be sought after, and encourag'd by all Lovers of their Country's Interest. Permit me therefore, with what Brevity I am able, to point out some Difficulties this Trade labours under at this Time, and some Improvements, that may render it more advantageous to the Crown, and the good Subjects of those Provinces.

Let

Let me, in the first Place, mention to your Lordships the Duty on our Boards, Planks, &c. which are now enumerated with those of Foreigners. If we were reliev'd in this Article, the Advantages would be mutual to the Crown and our Plantations; and indeed the whole Nation would feel the Benefit of it. It can be no Secret to you, that the *East-Country* Merchants purchase all the *Norway* Deals with the Silver Coin of this Kingdom, which certainly must be a pernicious Trade, and tend to impoverish (I think can never enrich) the Nation. It is very surprising, a Thing so well known, so destructive, and yet so easily remedy'd, should at this Time want a Cure. If the Duty was remov'd, *New-England* would send you finer Boards, better Lengths, and at as cheap a Rate, and take our Pay in the Manufacture of the Nation. This is an Article so considerable, that I hope the wise Senate will not over-look it, at a Time when the Nation is complaining of the Decay of Trade. If this Branch was turn'd into the *New-England* Channel, the King and Kingdom would reap the Benefit by the Increase of current Coin and Manufactory Exportation; by purchasing good and cheap, one great Article of their necessary Expence; by the Increase and flourishing of so considerable a Dominion; by employing a greater Number of Sailers; by the

Let

the Merchants being paid sooner for the Manufacture we expend ; and by keeping a neighbouring Nation poorer, so less capable of hurting us. The Plantations would find their Benefit, by opening so considerable a new Trade, which would proportion their Exportation to their Importation, by employing a great Number of Ships, and selling them in *England*, and by opening a Way to transport Timber and Plank for the King's Yards. It is uncertain what plausible Pretences the Merchants, who send out the Nation's Money, may invent to palliate their pernicious Practices: But the lessening the Customs, the Appropriation of the Fund, and that if we raise the Duty on *Norwegian* Commodities, the *Danes* will do the like by ours. These, my Lords, have been the most common Objections ; for all which I think one Answer sufficient: The Benefits arising from the *New-England* Trade, are so many, and so certain, that a small Inconveniency ought not to out-weigh them: But the Parliament allowing a Bounty, as they do for Pitch, Tar, and Turpentine, intirely silences the two last ; and the Increase of the manufactory Exportation, an Equivalent for the first.

The next Thing I shall mention to your Lordships, is Naval Stores, which highly concerns us and these Kingdoms. Naval Stores are so necessary, and of such vast Import to

the

the Nation, that it well becomes the Wisdom of its collective Body, to contrive the best Methods of Improvement. The War in the *North*, and Disturbance of the Navigation of the *Baltick*, have already rais'd Naval Stores near 50 *l. per Cent.* Certainly, my Lords, it behoves us to improve our own to such a Degree, that it may not be in the Power of those *Northern* Princes, tho combin'd in the strictest Alliances, to hurt us. But hitherto the Plantations have rather been discourag'd, than encourag'd in this Affair. This, although it may appear strange at first, will be evident to your Lordships, when you consider the vast Loss or Discount upon the Certificates which intituled to the Bounty. These were commonly sold at 45 *l. per Cent.* Discount, because the Parliament, when they assign'd that Bounty, provided no Fund. We were very diligent in the Improvement, upon the first Notice of the Bounty, and began to relax when we heard how poorly it was paid. If the Parliament therefore think fit to continue the Bounty, and assign a Fund, that it may be paid punctually, I doubt not but the Importation of Naval Stores from the Plantations, will increase to your Wishes. For Quantities, it is certain, of some Sorts, we are able to furnish the whole Expence of the Nations. One Fleet only from *New-England*,

*This I hear is now
done by the Par-
liament.*

England, has brought 6000 Barrels of Pitch, Tar, and Turpentine, to *London*; and that Plantation has Millions rotting in the Woods and Desarts, for want of Encouragement to collect them. Masts, it is well known, we have the finest in the World, and enough to serve the Nation for ever, if due Care be taken, and a proper Person appointed to take Care of them. Of Hemp, we yet raise but little, and I am at a Loss to say the Reason; for it is certain we have a Soil that will bear it, a Climate not unkind, and the Profit, I think, would exceed all other Labours of the Husband-man. I am not able to say what Steps can be taken to increase this Article of Naval Stores. The People have hitherto shewn a Backwardness, but I believe it is not to be despair'd of; for if they were once perswaded of the Profitableness, they would intirely run into it. But Arguments have been in vain, therefore nothing but Experience can convince, and that Experience they shun. If therefore, upon Application made by that People, to the Throne, for Royal Favours, our gracious Sovereign would only grant upon Condition, that such a Quantity of Hemp should be rais'd, (which must be but little at first) they, by Necessity brought to taste the Sweets of the Profits, would generally give into it. I shall re-assume this under another Head, so dismiss it here.

here. Our Woods afford all Sorts of Ship-Timber and Plank, and if cut in a proper Time, and had a due Seasoning, I believe, would equal or exceed that of most other Countries. Ships of late we build very well, and both for Beauty and Strength, may compare (except the River of *Thames*) with all *Europe*. Our Country abounds with Iron Ore; but we have not yet got into the Way of making enough for our own Supply. This, my Lords, is the present State of our Country, as to Naval Stores. By this short View, you will judge what Steps may be taken to inspire and invigorate the Parliament, to promote their own and the Plantations Interest in this Point also, especially at a Time when (if Care be not taken) the Nation is in Danger of losing beyond Redemption, two such important Articles: I mean the beneficial Trade to the Plantations, and the Supply of Naval Stores from thence. At present the Importation of *New-England* exceeds their Exportation: This, if not ballanc'd, must bring on this double Evil; it will oblige us to set up Manufactories of our own, which will destroy that Branch of Trade: And this necessarily infers the other fatal Inconvenience, or Evil; those Manufactories will employ the Hands that are, or would be at work on Naval Stores: And then the Nation may come entirely to depend on the Humours and politick

Designs of the *Russ*, the *Dane*, and the *Swede*, for
 Leave to set a Fleet to Sea. The Mischiefs ap-
 pear (shall I say) certain; the Remedy I am
 sure is easy; what is it then that influences our
 Councils and Practices, that we still carry our
 Coin to *Denmark* and *Norway*, and keep our
 Manufacture at Home, whilst Thousands of
 Tradesmen are ready to perish, rather than
 encourage one of our flourishing Plantations,
 to send us better, without Gold or Silver,
 and for the Manufacture of the Kingdoms;
 and damn the hopeful Beginnings of Naval
 Stores, of such Importance to these Realms?
 If any one should object, my Lords, that
 these Damages are only imaginary, or else
 why have they not fallen upon Manufactories
 already; for that they have not, we find, be-
 cause the Exportation to those Plantations,
 yearly increases? Your Lordships, I hope,
 will be satisfy'd with the following Answer,
 which is but one of many that offer. We
 have a very considerable Manufactory already
 establish'd in *New-England*, begun in the great
 Scarcity and Dearness of Goods, about nine
 Years ago, when the *English* Manufacture sold
 at 200 *l. per Cent.* Advance to the Shop,
 which added 25 *l. per Cent.* more at least for
 their own Profit; which great Advance arose
 from the Badness and Uncertainty of Returns;
 and this, in some Measure, from the ill Pay of
 the Bounty-Money, and great Discount on
 the

the Certificates. The Merchants could not sell cheaper, and the Husband-man and Householder would not give so dear. This put them upon making Buttons, Stuffs, Kerseys, Linsey-Woolseys, Flannels, &c. which has decreas'd the Importation of those Provinces above 50000 *l. per Annum*. In that Time also we had our *Spanish* Gold and Silver, and *New-England* Coin, to make the Ballance; of which we sent Home yearly, 30, 40, 50, or 60000 *l.* 'till all was gone. And for the Exportation increasing, it is only the Effect of the People's Increase, and has no more of Mystery, than that three Men require more Cloathing than two. Upon the whole, I doubt not but your Lordships will think it every way becoming the Wisdom of the Nation, to provide in Time, and fence against such gross and substantial Damages.

Another Article, and that indeed the most considerable of our Trade, is the Fishery: And this, by the Peace, is put upon a worse Footing than it was during the War. Fish, without Salt, is of no Account. Salt we have not of our own, but are oblig'd to fetch it yearly from *Saltertudas*. In War we had Convoys, or sent Ships of Force of our own, that could secure themselves and the small ones committed to their Care. But this being omitted, in Confidence of the Peace, we have been abus'd and insulted by the *Spaniards*,

ards, and have lost more and better Ships there in Peace, than War. Asking would once have procur'd us the Liberty to rake Salt there, as, I think, we have no Reason to doubt, when we consider the constant Success of our glorious War, and the much greater Demands we had to make. Besides, the giving in respect of the Donor, is giving us nothing ; for the Rains often in a Year destroy all the Salt, and the *Spaniards* never save it themselves ; or, if they did, it could be no Advantage, unless they make Discoveries of new Fishing-Grounds. But if the saving the Salt, could any way prove beneficial to them, their Title is disputed, the *Dutch* once possessing it as long as they could, (for indeed the Island is not habitable) and the *English*, for a long Course of Years, have constantly loaded great Fleets there, and so have a Pretence likewise. On which Accounts, the asking had been a Favour to them, as it had own'd and establish'd their Title. Your Lordships well know the great Hopes we were made to conceive of supplying the whole World with Fish, after the Delivery of *Placentia* : But we have only increas'd the Nation's Charge, by taking an expensive Garrison to maintain, remov'd the *French* to a more happy Climate, and better Situation, to annoy us, enlarg'd their Fishing-Ground, eas'd them of a great Expence, and made them indeed
the

the only People benefited by the Delivery of that important Bulwark.

Our Logwood-Trade, in the Bay of *Campeache* and *Honduras*, is on much the same Footing; where, in War, if taken, we were treated as lawful Enemies, but now as Pirates and Robbers. This Trade employs a great Number of *New-England* Ships, and has been very profitable to our Plantations, and the *British* Nation. To us, by the Employ of so many Ships; to the King and Kingdom, by the great Number of Sailors this Trade makes and maintains; all which are usually brought from the Plantations, and left here in *England*, ready for his Majesty's Service. But this Trade was wholly forgot in the Treaty of *Utrecht*, tho' the Nation has so eagerly desir'd it above fifty Years last past. I find Sir *William Godolphin*, in his *Spanish* Embassy, had nothing more particularly recommended to him in the Affair of Trade, than this Liberty to cut Wood in those Bays. That this also might have been had for asking, I believe, because it is of small Consideration to the *Spaniard*, who would not cut it, and bring it to Market, if we did not; therefore, in the Height of that successful War, which so distress'd them, doubtless a Thing of no Value to them, would have been readily thrown in, to oblige and quiet us.

What I offer to your Lordships, in the next Place, is rather by the Way of Prevention, than to remove any Difficulty we really labour under. Our Trade to *Surinam* has been openly attack'd by the Gentlemen of *Barbadoes*, who have represented it as prejudicial to the *English* Islands, and would have got an Act of Parliament to prohibit it. This Trade takes off a great Number of small Horses (commonly call'd *Surinams*) of no Use to us, and fit for no other Market. It employs a great Number of Ships and Sailors. The Tradesmen feel the Benefit of it, by the Merchandize of Soap, Candles, Beer, Building of Ships, and the vast Number of Cask this Trade employs. The Landed Interest shares with them in the Export of very much Hay, Oats, Onions, Apples, Pork, Beef, Staves, Boards, Butter, and Flower : The Fishery is also improv'd by the Export of Mackarel and refuse Cod, shipp'd there in great Quantities. Other Parts of Merchandize, by much Wine, and some Salt shipp'd there : And the Customs are improv'd by the Wine exported, without a Drawback. The Returns for these, is Molassus, which we brew and distil, and thereby raise many good Livings ; and the Merchant finds it one of the most profitable Trades he drives. Upon the whole, my Lords, allow us to keep it, and follow it closely while we have it. However, if the
 Damages

Damages our Islands sustain in the *West-Indies*, are equivalent or superior to our Benefits, we will allow it the Effect of Self-Love, or too great a Regard to our own Interest, that byasses our Inclinations. If they suffer, it must be either,

1. Because we fetch enough from *Surinam*, to supply all our Wants, so their Goods lye upon their Hands; or,

2. At least enough very much to lower the Price of theirs.

3. Or by turning so much of our Trade to *Surinam*, we lessen it to those Islands.

4. Or we carry the *Dutch* those Commodities which those Islands want, and suffer by that Want.

But neither of these can be affirm'd with Truth; for,

1. We expend all the Molassus we can purchase or procure from those Islands, and don't use the other when this is to be had.

2. We pay 4*d.* or 6*d.* per Gallon more for the Island-Molassus, than we do for that of *Surinam*; and the Island-Molassus is almost as dear again as it us'd to be before this Trade was open'd to *Surinam*.

3. We send them more Vessels now, than formerly, and such Quantities of every Thing, that their Markets will not take them off, but our Commodities often lye there and perish.

C

4. The

The grand Articles of our Trade, are
 want for the Islands, or are in such Plenty,
 that we can over-stock both Markets. This,
 my Lords, is really the State of the Case be-
 tween us; and their Endeavours to cut us
 off from this Trade, is the Effect of Pique,
 rather than any publick Interest; because we
 once made some silly temporary Laws, which
 squinted upon the Trade of those Islands, but
 were, indeed, foolish Abfurdgments of our
 own Liberties, and tended directly to our
 own Hurt, and must, in Time, have ended
 in our Destruction, as our Legislature after-
 wards saw, and null'd them.

I will not give your Lordships the Trouble
 of any new Schemes of Trade, as what may
 in Time be done by Pot-Ashes, or Sturgeon,
 of which Fish, we have great Quantities in
 all our large Rivers, but want the Art to
 cure them: Or what by Copper Mines, of
 which we have, perhaps, the best in the
 World, and near navigable Rivers, and enough
 for the whole Nation's Supply: But proceed
 to mention the one Thing which most op-
 press'd those Provinces, and which alone will
 destroy their Trade, if some Method be not
 found out to prevent it; I mean the Want of
 Money, or a proper Medium of Trade a-
 mong us.

This necessarily arises from the Difference
 between our Importation and Exportation.
 The

The former exceeding the latter, oblig'dous to make the Ballance in Money, while we had it; and the Necessities of the Government calling for a Paper-Credit, (with us call'd *Paper-Money*) which obtain'd a Currency in all Purchases and Payments, and made Way for the more easy shipping off all our Gold and Silver; and those Necessities ceasing with the War, the Treasury of Course sinks all the Paper, and leaves us without any Medium of Trade, in an helpless and deplorable Condition. As Things now stand, a Man worth a considerable Estate, is certainly ruin'd, if he owe any thing on Bond; because so much Land will not answer, but all must be sold, or so much as will raise the Sum due, which will not fetch, in such Extremities, five Shillings in the Pound; and if some Expedient be not found out, will scarce fetch Money upon any Terms. It is impossible for me, my Lords, to paint out the Misery and Confusion that seems to wait those Provinces, and to bring on Evils not only for themselves, but this Kingdom.

To deliver themselves from this big-belly'd Evil, the Inhabitants have projected a Bank of Credit, founded upon Land-Security, and want the Royal Charter to incorporate them. For this, they offer one *per Cent.* out of their Net Profits. And to make it still more beneficial to the Crown and Kingdom, they

propose a proper Encouragement for such as shall raise a certain Quantity of Hemp. The Præmium will undoubtedly lead the People into it; beside which, the real Benefit upon this Part of Husbandry, beyond most that they now follow, bids fair for a general Cultivation of it. So that if our Sovereign should give into it, I know no Way so probable to effect this great End. Certainly, my Lords, it will be a happy Day, when the King's Dominions will enable him to assert his Sovereignty at Sea, without being beholding to any of our Neighbours, or at the Charge of some hundred thousand Pounds every four or five Years, to awe the Northern Potentates into Peace and Compliance, that we may fetch from them such Naval Stores, as are of absolute Necessity for the Safety of our Trade, Lives, Liberties, and Religion. The dearer these are to us, the more earnestly should we trace out, and the more industriously apply to such Methods as will free us from any Manner of Dependance. The Charter propos'd, will, in all Probability, serve these two great Ends; it will deliver some of his Majesty's most flourishing Plantations from the Ruin that is threatening them, and put them into a Way of being more serviceable to the Crown, than they ever yet were, by freeing it from a Dependance on foreign Powers,

Powers, for some Articles of very great Importance. Besides, my Lords, if the King should govern himself by Considerations of a lower Nature, his Princely Goodness could not deny us. Let it be consider'd this Charter gives away nothing from the Crown; it will be a particular Benefit to the Corporation, and may be universal, because the whole Country may come into it; and, lastly, it will bring near five thousand Pounds *per Annum* into the Treasury; which alone is big with too many Benefits to be discours'd on at this Time.

I am sensible, my Lords, it has been the Policy of some Ministers, to curb the Forwardness of the Plantations, least they should grow too big for the Kingdoms they belong to, and especially that of *New-England*, because the Inhabitants are *Dissenters*, Commonwealth's-Men, Anti-monarchical, and whatever else they please to call them. I will not weary your Lordships with answering these Objections, since what I have here propos'd, is principally to render the Plantations more serviceable to the Crown and Nation, and consequently, the more flourishing, the more beneficial to both. Certainly, the best Way to keep them firm to the Interest of these Kingdoms, is, to keep them depending for all their Necessaries, and not by any present Hardships to force them to subsist

list of themselves. If they once run into Manufactories, what will they ask from *England*? Allow them to keep the Ballance of their Trade, and they will never think of Manufactories. But if the Nature of their Trade, or great Duties on their Goods, destroy this Ballance of Necessity they must make for themselves, and will, since they have Materials to work on. But the Notion is wild, and ungrounded, of the Plantations ever setting up for themselves. Different Schemes, Interests, Notions, Religions, Customs, and Manners, will for ever divide them from one another, and unite them to the Crown. He that will be at the Trouble of reviewing only the Religion of the Continent, where he will find of every Denomination, from the earliest Gnostick, to the modern Prophets, and consider how tenacious each Sect is, will never form any Idea of a Combination to the Prejudice of the Land of our Fore-fathers.

Many other Things might be added; but to avoid Tedioufness, I have only insisted on the most important Articles; for some of which, where the Cure was easy and obvious, I have pointed it out; but the more arduous are left for the Wisdom of your Lordships, or that of the Parliament. They are of sufficient Import, to deserve their Care. It is with Surprize, and not without some Degrees of Horror, that the Nation sees it self oblig'd

oblig'd to fight for Stores to supply the Navy another Year. This therefore seems to be the happy Crisis for setting forward the great Business in the Plantations. May your Lordships have the Glory of accomplishing it, and so both deserve and have your Monarch's Favour, whilst I have the Pleasure of seeing this poor Service accepted, for the Sincerity which attends it, and with which I am,

April 3, 1715.

My Lords, &c.

F I N I S.



(2)

obliged to supply the
v and the Year. This
the happy. The
Bologna in the
Lond. The
it and to
the poor. The
carry with which



April 3, 1713

My Lady, &c.

F I N I S

